

Evening Telegraph

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1866.

Mr. Lincoln and Reconstruction. The authority of Mr. Lincoln's example is so often pleaded by the conservatives in favor of Mr. Johnson's present position and policy with reference to the reconstruction of the late Rebel States, that it may be worth while to refresh the memory of our readers with what Mr. Lincoln's opinions and policy on this topic really were.

Mr. Lincoln's ideas upon this subject of reconstruction, as set forth in this proclamation, embraced these main points:—First, that the general Government was authorized to reconstruct the States by that clause of the Constitution which makes it a duty of the United States to guarantee to each State in the Union a republican form of government; secondly, that only those citizens who were loyal should take part in the work of reconstruction; thirdly, that any plan he might adopt was merely experimental, and liable to be superseded by a better one, should it be discovered; fourthly, that the main dependence was, after all, upon the army and navy; and, fifthly, that the whole matter of the admission of members from any State rested exclusively with Congress, and not to any extent with the Executive.

Upon the first of these points he remarked:—"The constitutional obligation of the United States to guarantee to every State in the Union a republican form of government, and to protect the State in the case stated, is explicit and full. This section of the Constitution contemplates a case wherein the element in a State favorable to republican government in the Union, may be too feeble for an opposite and hostile element external to or even within the State; and such are precisely the cases with which we are now dealing."

Upon the second point he said:—"An attempt to guarantee and protect a rival State Government, constructed in whole, or in preponderating part, from the very element against whose hostility and violence it is to be protected, is simply absurd." Hence he excluded from participation in this work of reconstruction all persons who were, or had been, connected with the Confederate army or navy, above the rank of Colonel in the former and Lieutenant in the latter; all who left seats in the United States Congress, or resigned commissions in the army or navy of the United States, to aid the Rebellion; and all persons who had treated our soldiers, colored or white, otherwise than lawfully as prisoners of war. These terms of exclusion, it will be seen, are much more rigorous than those of the Constitutional amendment, and were such as would have put the reconstructed States into loyal hands alone.

In regard to the third point, he wished to be understood that "this proclamation is intended to present the people of the States wherein the national authority has been suspended, and the loyal State Governments have been subverted, a mode in and by which the national authority and loyal State Governments may be re-established within said States, or in any of them. And, while the mode presented is the best which the Executive can suggest with his present impressions, it must not be understood that no other possible mode would be successful." And in his last public speech, delivered only three days before his assassination, in discussing what had already been done in the work of reconstruction, he said that no exclusive and inflexible plan could be prescribed, and that in the present situation it might be his duty "to make some new announcement to the people of the South."

Upon the fourth point he said:—"We must not lose sight of the fact that the war-power is still our main reliance. To that power alone can we look, for a time, to give confidence to the people in the contested regions that the insurgent power will not again overrun them."

The full and exclusive power of Congress over the admission of members from these States, Mr. Lincoln repeatedly and carefully recognized. Nor did he, in any manner, attempt to interfere with this prerogative of Congress, or to influence the action of that body with reference to applicants for seats.

breaking down the moral and physical power of the Rebels in the States themselves. He encouraged the people of the South to form loyal State Governments, not that he might rush a crowd of hungry applicants for admission to the doors of Congress, and claim rights for them, but that the nucleus of loyal communities might be established in the Rebel States, and thus they might gradually be brought back to their true relations with the Union. Had he lived, there can hardly be a doubt that he would have been found acting in full accord with the representatives of the people; and that now, instead of beholding the so-called State Governments of the South in the hands of Rebels, we should have seen loyal men at the head of affairs there, and the problem of reconstruction would have been already and happily solved.

JEWETT TO FORNEY.—We publish elsewhere to-day an appeal from Hon. William Cornell Jewett to Hon. John W. Forney, urging the latter to withdraw his letter of refusal to be a candidate for United States Senator for this State. The letter itself we published yesterday. The appeal of Mr. Jewett is well written, and contains sound argument. There can be no question, whatever may be the opinion of Colonel Forney personally, that he stands in the foremost ranks of the friends of liberty. We doubt, however, if Mr. Jewett's argument will persuade Colonel Forney to alter his determination.

OVERWHELMING TESTIMONIALS.

Prominent among those American firms which have gained enviable distinction abroad must be classed the piano-forte manufacturers, Messrs. Chickering & Sons. It is not our purpose here to dwell upon the success achieved in so enterprising a manner by these gentlemen; but rather to review the certificates which their instruments have won, not only from the most celebrated pianists in Europe, but also from the leading piano manufacturers of London. This latter fact is one of which the American public, jointly with the successful American manufacturers, may be justly proud. Doubtless our readers are aware that the eminent artist, Go'tschalk, would play on none but a Chickering piano. He considered these instruments equal, if not superior, to any in the world, and, ere his departure, he stated as much in a most flattering letter written to the manufacturers.

The attention of European performers on the piano, and of the public of Paris, London, Vienna, and St. Petersburg, was called first to the Chickering piano through the certificate of the great maestro, Thalberg, who unhesitatingly pronounced these instruments admirable in every detail, and the equal of any manufactured more recently. Wehli, the popular pianist, played at all his concerts in this country upon a Chickering "Concert Grand," and became so infatuated with the instrument that, upon his return to Europe, he took one with him. While in London, the attention of musical circles was attracted to this splendid specimen of American manufacture, and we find Mr. Charles D. Collard, of the firm of Collard & Collard, piano manufacturers, of London, writing as follows about it:—

LONDON, July 14, 1866. JAMES M. WEHLI, Esq.:—My Dear Sir:—I have great pleasure in asking you to convey to Messrs. Chickering the expression of my highest approval of their instrument. It is, I consider, not merely the best instrument of American manufacture that I have tried, but one of the finest grand piano-fortes that has ever come under my observation; and the Messrs. Chickering may well be proud of having turned out from their manufactory an instrument which, for touch, quality, power, and workmanship, it would be very difficult to surpass in any part of the world.

Dear Sir, very sincerely yours, CHARLES D. COLLARD. In addition to this certificate, one of the most pleasant which the Chickering have so deservedly received, must be noticed the fact that the celebrated firm of Broadwood & Sons, piano manufacturers, in London, who pronounce the Chickering piano, as per their signed certificate:—"As good an instrument as was ever turned out, both in touch and tone."

Herr Carl Reinecke, successor to the positions of Mendelssohn in the Conservatoire, and as conductor of the famed "Gewandhaus Concerts" in Leipzig, sent to the successful American firm the following acknowledgment:—

I hereby assert and affirm that the grand piano-fortes of Chickering and Sons, of Boston and New York, which I have tried and examined, is one of the finest instruments of the class that ever came to my notice. LEIPZIG, July, 1866.

Y. von Arnoid, the celebrated Russian composer and pianist, has likewise had occasion to test the qualities of the Chickering piano, and he testifies, in the most complete manner, to their excellence. His certificate is so conclusive that we can do no better than to append it here, as fully carrying out our ideas regarding a fine instrument:—

At Mr. Levett's, in Leipzig, I have this day (July 24th, 1866), examined a grand piano-forte from the manufactory of Messrs. Chickering & Sons, of Boston. It is a concert instrument of seven and one-third octaves, with regard to which I would make the following remarks:—

First, The action is so finely balanced that any gradation of power can be obtained, from the most delicate lights to the greatest force. Second, Between the two extremes of the keyboard the vibrations are perfectly equal in graduated power. The "stinging" quality of the instrument (pronunciation of sound), especially in the middle octaves, is greatly developed, and is exceedingly beautiful. The bass is full, uniform, powerful, without harshness, and the ensemble very beautiful.

Third, Nothing finer than this instrument could be desired, with regard to power and fulness of tone. In conclusion, it must be acknowledged that this instrument is one of the most perfect piano-fortes of our time—namely, as regards tone in general, and in the perfection of its mechanical parts. Y. VON ARNOID. LEIPZIG, July, 1866.

To conclude this brief notice of a success which may be termed National in its interest, we say of it

the fact that, among the numerous names signed to a certificate eulogizing the Chickering piano, may be found those of the following eminent European pianists:—

- ANGELICA GODDARD, BRUNO RICHARDS, G. A. OBERMAYER, BENK FAYABONN, W. KUIER, SYDNEY SMITH, JAMES BENDIGT, OTTLO REISSOWA, M. W. BAILEY, ALFRED JARRE, CHARLES HALLS, LINDSAY FLOBER, J. MOSCHERLE, Professor au Conservatoire de Leipzig.

S. ARTHUR CHAPPEL, Director of Monday Concerts, London. The following letter will be read with satisfaction by all who take pride in the just appreciation abroad of American skill and ingenuity in her manufactures:—

UNITED STATES CONSULATE, BERLIN, PRUSSIA, November 7, 1866. MESSRS. CHICKERING & SONS, BOSTON, MASS.: GENTLEMEN:—I profit of the opportunity afforded by the return to Boston of my friend, Hugo Leonhard Esq., the eminent pianist of your city, to do what ought to have been done ere this, to acquaint you of the safe arrival of the magnificent "Chickering" Grand Piano which Mr. Leonhard had been good enough to select for me.

Thanks to your care and foresight, it came in perfect order, notwithstanding the frequent handling to which it had been necessarily subjected on its long passage from Boston to Berlin. The instrument, in regard to its elegant and tasteful exterior, as well as its beautiful tone and perfect action, is everything that I could have desired.

All those who have seen, heard, examined, and played upon it—among them the very best judges in Berlin, piano players as well as piano makers—cannot sufficiently admire it, and pronounce it superior to any Grand Pianos made here or elsewhere in Germany, not excepting the widely and justly celebrated "Bechstein" instruments, of this city. The quality of the tone of your splendid instrument is found to be so refined and pure, it "sings" so beautifully, as the Germans express it, the quantity of its tone is so full, round, and ample; the gradation of strength from the lower to the upper registers so complete and even, and its action and mechanism so perfect, that all concur in the opinion that its equal in excellence and perfection has not before been seen in Berlin.

So numerous have been the encomiums passed upon it, in many instances, from local pride, given only because their sense of justice and love of truth compelled the eminent gentlemen to give them—and for that reason all the more valuable—that I, as a lover, gentleman, I esteem it a privilege, and feel proud to be in possession of this splendid specimen of American art, ingenuity, and skill.

With my compliments and best wishes for your continued well deserved success, I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant, H. KRISMANN, United States Consul.

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